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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland/USSR

SUBJECT Confusion in the Soviet Naval Command of the Southern Baltic

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1. Symptoms of confusion on the part of the Soviet Naval Command have been observed in the current year in the Southern Baltic.
2. In January 1953 the Polish State Timber Company (PAGED), which has its timber depots and loading equipment in a part of Gdynia called "Timber Port" (adjacent to the Oksywie Naval Base), was officially instructed to evacuate its stocks and installations to Danzig. The reason given was that the Polish Naval Base in Gdynia was to be extended, and on the area where PAGED was situated, the shipyard repair base and other installations were to be built. PAGED duly transferred its stocks and installations. Then in March the management was instructed that the above plan had been abandoned; hence they could move back their belongings to Gdynia. At the end of May, however, this order was countermanded and they were ordered to go back to Danzig. Finally, in August, they were informed that the Polish Navy would take over only half of the PAGED area, in Gdynia, and the management could retain the other half for its own use.
3. Similar changes of plans have been reported from Rügen, where early in the year 1953 work was going on full blast on the construction of a large naval and shipbuilding base, mainly with the use of forced labor. In July, this work was entirely stopped; in October it was resumed, but on a much smaller scale. Forced labor is no longer used in Rügen and much less work is now done.
4. I believe that the explanation for all this is the following: The Soviet Naval Command of the Baltic, responsible for strategic plans in this area, has reconsidered the projects worked out while Stalin was still alive, and work was stopped while new decisions were being taken.

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5. In connection with the recasting of Soviet naval plans in the Baltic, there have been rumors that the Soviet Vice Admiral Cherokov - since 1950 Commander in [REDACTED] the Polish Navy - has been recalled to serve with the Soviet Navy. This information has not been verified as yet. During the Soviet naval squadron's recent visit to Gdynia, the Commander in Chief of the Polish Navy was never referred to by name. The Chief of Staff of the Polish Navy, Captain Frank Wisniewski, was recently promoted to the rank of rear admiral, but he is not the new Commander in Chief of the Polish Navy.

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